

only 35% are aware that undetectable viral load is associated with a decreased risk of sexual transmission. The knowledge that HIV transmission decreases with low VL is higher among women with higher level of education (OR=1.72), women diagnosed for at least two years (OR=1.91) and among discordant couples (OR=2.56). And, the non-use of condoms in the last sexual intercourse is higher among those who know that HIV transmission decreases with low VL and among those with HIV+ partner (OR=1.69 and 2.56, respectively), regardless level of schooling.

**Conclusion** Women can take advantage of up-to-date information on HIV prevention once they have it. Meaningful information is a critical piece to ensure a pleasurable and safe sexual life of WLHIV, free of constraints for not using condoms 100% of the time. Sexuality and its constraints are always changing. New challenges are placed in the fourth decade of the AIDS epidemic; some of them refer to gender and social inequalities in the access to information.

#### P4.90 WHICH SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS DO GAY AND BISEXUAL MEN FIND MOST SCARY AND WHY? A QUALITATIVE STUDY

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**Introduction** As a result of high burden of infection, men who have sex with men (MSM) are a priority for sexually transmitted infection (STI) prevention interventions including promoting regular testing. Effective intervention design requires understanding of MSM's knowledge and perceptions of STIs and their social representations which may affect attitudes and behaviour related to risk, testing and treatment. To inform STI prevention interventions and development of questions inclusion in an online survey that would link with surveillance data on testing and diagnosis we assessed MSM's knowledge and attitudes towards STIs.

**Methods** We recruited a diverse sample of MSM in 4 English cities, through social networking and community organisations. 61 MSM attended one of eight 90 min focus group discussions. Topics included knowledge of, and attitudes towards STIs. We ran a discussion and ranking exercise in which names of 11 infections, specified below, printed in large font on separate sheets were laid out and respondents were asked what they knew about each and to rank them in order of most to least 'scary', giving reasons for their ranking. Infections included: HIV, syphilis, gonorrhoea, chlamydia, HPV/genital warts, genital herpes, *Shigella*, scabies, hepatitis A (HAV), B (HBV) and C (HCV). Discussions were audio recorded, transcribed and thematic data analysis conducted.

**Results** Participants demonstrated both wide and detailed knowledge as well as lack of awareness depending on individuals and infections. While the greatest knowledge and experience was of HIV, few had heard of or knew much about *Shigella*. No focus groups were unanimous in their ranking of infections and patterns were not the same across groups. HIV and HCV were ranked the two most 'scary' by all groups and

syphilis was among the three most scary. Herpes was also ranked highly by all but one group while scabies was similarly ranked least scary. Other infections ranked between with no clear patterning within or between groups. The exercise produced a complex range of explanations relating to fear of individual infections and of STIs in general. Participants weighed up the scary and less scary attributes of the infections depending on the extent of their knowledge about and experience of them, their prevalence among MSM, associated stigma, transmission mechanisms, contagiousness, symptoms, severity and the availability, effectiveness and ease of use of vaccines, treatment and/or cure.

**Conclusion** While knowledge of individual STI infections varies, knowledge and awareness about *Shigella* was particularly low. MSM expressed a range of nuanced concerns related to individual STI and STI testing and treatment. Fears influence and relate to each other e.g. considerable fear of a disfiguring infection may be reduced if the treatment is seen to be relatively easy, short and effective. MSM articulated a range of concerns which were subsequently used as categories in a self-completion survey to inform STI risk reduction, testing and treatment interventions.

#### P4.91 MONITORING ADHERENCE TO PRE-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS: DEVELOPING, USING AND OPTIMISING AN ONLINE TOOL FOR DAILY AND EVENT-DRIVEN REGIMEN

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**Introduction** Oral Pre-Exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) with Truvada is a promising tool to reduce the number of HIV infections among men who have sex with men (MSM). With growing scientific interest in non-daily PrEP regimens (e.g. event-driven) assessing PrEP adherence has become more challenging. The aim was to develop, use and optimise an online tool to monitor PrEP adherence.

**Methods** In a first phase, an interdisciplinary team developed a secure web-based tool to collect data on adherence within a Belgian PrEP demonstration project (Be-PrEP-ared), involving 200 MSM using daily or event-driven PrEP or discontinuing PrEP use. The online diary was piloted before study implementation, and slightly adapted based on participant feedback. The use of the online diary tool by participants is closely monitored by study staff for completion. In a second phase, participative qualitative methods (i.e. co-creation sessions) were used to develop a smartphone application based on the diary aiming to support PrEP adherence. The efficacy of the adapted smartphone application is being tested.

**Results** The online diary is fully operational and being used by study participants of the PrEP demonstration project. Participants login into the secured platform on a daily base and fill in the number and timing of pills taken, whether they had sex that day and if so self-assessment of HIV risk self-assessment. The smartphone application is being finalised. Qualitative findings revealed that users prefer an application that provides scientific reliable information, is subtle and sensitive to privacy, can be used internationally, and has advanced